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REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
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INFECTION
Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow
Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms
SOUTHERN STAR
MYSURU

DC, SP inspect Mysuru-Kodagu check-post in Kushalnagar

- Only one inter-district entry and exit point with health screening and vehicle checking kiosks
- Anechowkur Gate closed for movement of people but open for essential goods
- Kerala COVID-19 positive truck driver's contacts in K.R. Nagar, H.D. Kote test negative

Kushalnagar, May 5 (Akshay & BCT)- Mysuru Deputy Commissioner Abhiram G. Sankar and Superintendent of Police C.B. Ryshyanth inspected the Mysuru-Kodagu check-post at Koppa in Kushalnagar this morning and oversaw the arrangements made there.

Kushalnagar (Koppa) is the lone check-post where travellers from Mysuru can enter Kodagu and people coming from Kodagu can enter Mysuru. All the other check-posts even at Anechowkur Gate have been closed for the movement of people. People from Dakshina Kannada can come to Mysuru via Sampaje check-post and reach Koppa Gate.

Only essential goods vehicles are allowed entry to Mysuru and Kodagu through the Anechowkur Gate. People can enter and exit Mysuru through the Koppa check-post and from Bettadapura check-post (towards Arkalgud and Hassan) and Bherya near K.R. Nagar (towards Chikkamagalur).

At Koppa, Bettadapura and Bherya, health of each individual is screened through thermal scanners and the inter-district one-time passes are checked and matched with individual and vehicle details.

As per the guidelines issued by the State Government, each district must have only one inter-district entry and exit point to enable health officials to screen the commuters. Passengers entering Mysuru from Kodagu and those exiting Mysuru to Kodagu are subjected to mandatory 14-day quarantine.

At the check-posts, there is self-reporting form verification, thermal scanning, categorisation and stamping. Seals with date are affixed on the upper palm of the commuters. Somwarpet Tahsildar Govindaraju is leading the checking operation at Koppa.

Speaking to the officials and the Police, both Abhiram Sankar and Ryshyanth asked the officers to ensure that no passenger is put to inconvenience. They suggested the officers to shift the existing check-post to another place to avoid rush and traffic jams.

Following complaints of inordinate delay, Ryshyanth took information from Kushalnagar Circle Inspector Mahesh and asked him to smoothen the operations. The DC said that a separate health screening unit will be set up in a suitable area beyond the Koppa check-post to ease traffic snarls and to minimise inconvenience.

(See CHECK-POST on page 6)

Mysuru Corona Alert

- **Three patients discharged today**
- **Eight total active cases**
- **26 people home-quarantined**
- **90 total positive cases**
- **82 cured so far**

Youth murdered in drunken brawl

Mysuru, May 5 (RK&BCT)- As if to prove that there is a direct link between alcohol use and violence, Mysuru witnessed a murder the day liquor shops opened up for sales yesterday. So far, Mysuru was under stringent lockdown measures, thanks to the Red Zone classification.

The murder was reported at Kyathamaranahalli under Udayagiri Police limits where three friends, after a day-long drunken stupor, argued over a girl and one enraged friend stabbed other with a knife and left the spot leaving the victim to die, Police said.

Victim Satish

According to Udayagiri Police, the murdered youth is 23-year-old Satish, son of Mahadeva and a resident of Kyathamaranahalli. As the liquor shops opened yesterday, three friends Satish, Kiran and Madhu took stocks and proceeded towards the city outskirts to consume liquor.

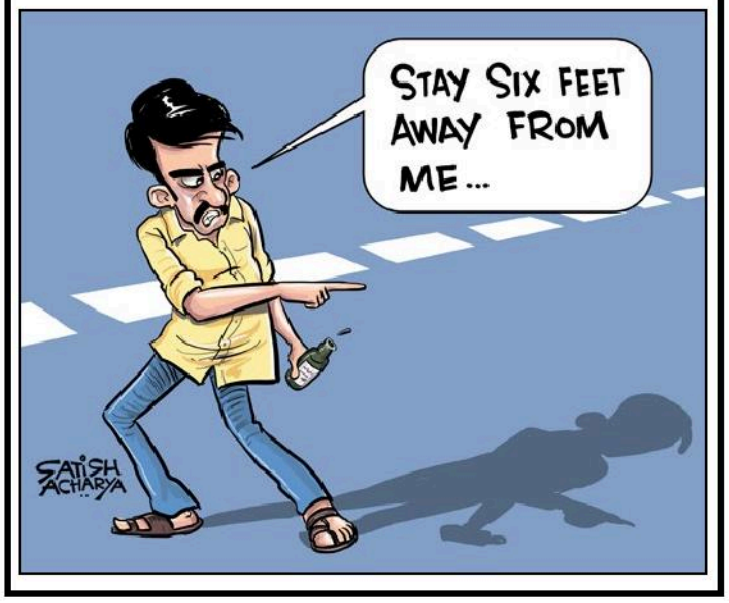
Police said that the trio returned to the city at 8.45 pm and were discussing an issue at Kyathamaranahalli 14th Cross, opposite a flour mill. As it was late hours, there was no business activity and people had reached home while there were only a couple of men on the streets.

In the course of the argument, one of the friends raked up the issue of a girl and this led to an argument among the trio. Some passers-by too heard the heated discussion, the Police said.

(See MURDERED on page 6)

STAR PUNCH

By Satish Acharya



Normalcy returns to Chamarajanagar

Chamarajanagar, May 5- Normalcy returned to Chamarajanagar yesterday after lockdown restrictions were lifted. A large number of patients were seen in District Government Hospital premises, standing in the corridor of outpatient department. Hospital staff were seen instructing visitors to maintain social distancing. Most of the businesses including jewellers and cloth merchants have opened their shops.

Meanwhile, hundreds of people were seen standing in a queue outside the Dy.SP's Office to obtain passes so as to travel to neighbouring districts. Salons were open between 7 am and 2 pm but only parcel services were allowed in hotels and restaurants. Following relaxation of lockdown, many people also thronged banks and other Government offices.

Speaking to *Star of Mysore*, KSRTC Divisional Controller K.H. Srinivas said, "Chamarajanagar, Kollegal and Gundlupet bus depots also have started functioning from yesterday. Five buses in each of these depots are ferrying passengers to different parts of the district but are carrying only a maximum of 50 passengers in each of these buses."

All passengers are being screened using thermal screening devices. Department staff were instructing passengers to wear mask without fail. Senior Police officials and Deputy Commissioner also visited city bus stations and monitored the activity.

As the district administration had not given permission for auto-rickshaws to resume activity, over 25 autos that were ferrying passengers were seized yesterday. Later, owners and drivers of auto rickshaws met Deputy Commissioner Dr. M.R. Ravi and SP H.D. Anand Kumar and urged them to allow rickshaws to ply on the roads.

Over 76 liquor shops in the district also did brisk business yesterday. People were seen standing in serpentine queues braving the May heat. Police personnel were instructing the buyers to maintain social distancing and wear masks.

Lockdown curbs relaxed in Hunsur

Hunsur, May 5 (KK&DM)- Hunsur Tahsildar Basavaraju said that COVID-19 lockdown curbs have been relaxed in the taluk with effect from Monday, based on the District Administration's directions.

Presiding over the Taluk-level Task Force meeting at Hunsur Taluk Panchayat Hall here yesterday, Basavaraju said that relaxation of curbs allowing certain commercial and economic activities come along with a set of conditions.

Pointing out that grocery shops, vegetable and fruit shops and outlets selling essential items such as milk and other products have been permitted to function by maintaining social distancing among their customers, he said that all shops should be ready with sanitisers for use by customers visiting the shops and all customers are mandatorily required to wear face masks.

Clarifying that the permitted shops can open only from 6 am to 2 pm as before, the Tahsildar said that more relaxations will be announced after a week depending upon the situation.

Referring to sale of liquor, he said that only liquor shops with CL-2 licence and MSIL outlets are allowed to sell liquor from 9 am to 7 pm and it is the responsibility of the shop owners to ensure that their customers maintain social distancing and follow other lockdown norms in place.

He further said that the ban on Salons, Beauty Parlours, Gyms, Clubs, Malls, Hotels, Bakeries, Dental Clinics, Street Vending, Fast Food outlets and such other commercial activities will continue as before.

TP Executive Officer Girish, Taluk Health Officer Dr. Keerthikumar, CPI K.C. Poovaiah, Municipal Commissioner Manjunath and others were present.

Flower petals on Frontline Warriors

Mysuru, May 5 (RKB&BNR)- While the Indian Air Force expressed its gratitude by flying past hospitals, showering flowers from helicopters on Sunday, Mysuru's Krishnaraja MLA S.A. Ramdas too felicitated some of the frontline Corona Warriors.

The MLA, considering the service rendered by these doctors and nurses at various health facilities including Fever Clinics and Mobile Clinics, visited several health centres and felicitated the staff there by offering shawls and appreciation certificates. He also showered flower petals on them.

Akkammani Hospital (Ramanuja Road) Medical Officer Dr. Pavithra, Nurses Cheluvamma, Mamatha, Pratap, Arathi, Qamar Ahmed, Suchitra, Padmalatha, Sunita, Chandana and others were feted this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramdas said that we cannot say Mysuru is Corona-free now as the deadly virus can come back from anywhere and anytime. "Inter-District travel has been facilitated and likewise, inter-State travel facility will also be made available soon. At this point, we should come out of house only if there is necessity. We should only go out for work and should not make mob anywhere," requested the MLA.

B.S. Prashanth of Safe Wheels, KR BJP President Vadivelu, leader Krishna were present.

Man succumbs to injuries at hospital

Nanjangud, May 5 (RK&KS)- A 40-year-old man, who had sustained serious injuries when he rammed his bike into a horse that was standing in the middle of the road yesterday and admitted to a private hospital in Mysuru, has succumbed to injuries at the hospital today morning. The deceased is Jagadish, a resident of Vidyanagar in Nanjangud.

Jagadish

Jagadish was proceeding on his bike from Kurahatti towards Nanjangud on Nanjangud-Gundlupet Road when he rammed into a stray horse that was standing in the middle of the road and fell down resulting in him sustaining serious injuries.

Though he was rushed to a private hospital in Mysuru, he succumbed to his injuries. Post-mortem was conducted at MMC&RI mortuary and the body was handed over to his family members. Nanjangud Police have registered a case.

Outgoing MUDA Commissioner feted

Outgoing MUDA Commissioner P.S. Kantharaju being felicitated by the staff of MUDA yesterday as MUDA Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh and others look on.

Mysuru, May 5 (RK&KS)- The staff of MUDA gave a warm send off to outgoing MUDA Commissioner P.S. Kantharaju, who has been transferred, at a simple function held at the meeting hall in MUDA Office premises yesterday. The MUDA staff felicitated Kantharaju with a Mysuru Peta and a shawl.

Kantharaju thanked everyone for extending their co-operation during his tenure as the MUDA Commissioner and added that many projects were implemented with the co-operation of all.

Continuing, he said that some projects were not implemented due to technical reasons and expressed hope that those projects would be implemented in the coming days.

New MUDA Commissioner Dr. D.B. Natesh, Secretary M.K. Savitha, Town Planner Member B.N. Girish, Special Land Acquisition Officer Chandramma, MUDA Employees Association Secretary Basavaraju and others were present.

Youth drowns in Visvesvaraya Canal

Pandavapura, May 5 (RK&KS)- A 23-year-old youth, who had gone for a swim in Visvesvaraya Canal near Shambhunahalli village in the taluk on Friday morning, has been drowned.

The deceased is S.V. Vinaykumar, the only son of late S.K. Venkatesh and Padma and a resident of Shambunahalli.

Deceased Vinaykumar

Vinaykumar along with four others went to the canal for a swim on May 1 morning. Though the others tried to rescue him, their efforts went in vain. Pandavapura Police, who rushed to the spot, summoned Fire and Emergency Service personnel and also expert divers and swimmers to trace the body. As the body could not be traced, the officials of Cauvery Neeravari Nigam stopped the water to the canal and the body was fished out at about 10.45 pm.

The body was shifted to Pandavapura General Hospital, where post-mortem was conducted and the body was handed over to the family members on May 2. Pandavapura Police have registered a case.

VOICE OF THE READER

MCC Property Tax 2020-2021

Extend rebate period after lockdown ends

Sir,

This has reference to various letters and suggestions with regard to MCC property tax payment for 2020-2021. I fail to understand why there is no response in the matter from the Mysuru City Corporation (MCC).

First suggestion: MCC staff to collect cheque from residents from their doorstep.

Second: MCC to provide their account number and residents can online transfer previous year tax amount for the time being and balance amount if any at a later date before end of the financial year.

Third: Enabling online remittance of tax like BBMP.

I am forced to remind MCC that there will be heavy rush in banks immediately after withdrawal of lockdown, as another 15 days will be left to avail the rebate of 5 per cent. Considering the present situation, we cannot ignore physical distancing even after withdrawal of lockdown in mid-May.

Hence, I suggest MCC to permit rebate for 30 days after withdrawal of lockdown or enable online remittance facility at the earliest.

— V. Rajagopalachar
Ramakrishna Nagar
4.5.2020

Corona art works mark World Cartoonist Day

Marking World Cartoonist Day, cartoons on Corona was inaugurated by social worker Dr. K. Raghuram Vajapaee at MLA L. Nagendra's office in Jaladarshini this morning, under the aegis of city-based Himalaya Foundation. MLA L. Nagendra, BJP leader R. Raghu Kautilya, KMPK Charitable Trust President Vikram Iyengar, Spiritual Thinker Yoganarasimhan, former President of District Kannada Sahithya Parishat Maddikere Gopal, Foundation President Anantha, Star of Mysore cartoonist and Fulbrighter M.V. Nagendra Babu and others were present on the occasion.

Over 8,000 undergo free health check-up in Mobile Clinics

Mysuru, May 5 (RKB)- From the day of launch (Apr.29), the COVID Mobile Clinics, launched by the District Administration to provide medical services at the doorstep, are receiving good response with more people voluntarily approaching the Mobile Clinics for health check-ups. So far, over 8,000 people have made use of this free facility.

Yesterday (May 4), the Mobile Clinics visited K.G. Koppal, Aravinda Nagar, Brindavan Layout, Yallamma Colony, Sharadadevinagar, Ganeshnagar, Subhashnagar, Udayagiri, Al Badar Circle, Ambedkar Colony, Yaraganahalli and Ghousianagar, and screened over 1,300 people.

Earlier, on Apr. 29 – 650; Apr. 30 – 1,450; May 1 – 1,439; May 2 – 1,797; May 3 – 1,738 people have been screened in different areas.

Today (May 5), the 12 Mobile Clinics will be stationed at Kuvempunagar (Navilu Road), Ramakrishnanagar E-F-I Block, Kailasapuram, Ring Road Ashraya Layout, Dattagalli, Mahadevapura, J.P. Nagar, Kuduremala, Ghousianagar, Bharatnagar, B.B. Keri, Mayura Circle and Manchegowdana Koppal.

Saplings sold at Curzon Park

Mysuru, May 5- Good quality saplings of Mango, Sapota, Coconut, Indian Blackberry, Guava, Jackfruit, Lemon, Papaya and other saplings are being sold at the Horticulture Department in Curzon Park at affordable prices.

Interested farmers and public may contact the Senior Assistant Horticulture Director at Curzon Park in city or call Ph: 0821-2977572, according to a press release.

Mysuru Zoo looks for ways to offset plunge in revenues

District Minister writes to NRIs, AKKA appealing for funds

Mysuru, May 5 (MTY&BCT)- With the front gates locked and the normal revenue streams in hibernation because of the Coronavirus lockdown, the Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, popular as Mysuru Zoo, is thinking of raising funds through donations to continue caring for its denizens.

In an appeal to Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and AKKA (Association of Kannada Kootas of America) Mysuru District Minister S.T. Somashekar has sought for donations as revenue at the Zoo has seen elephant-sized plunge.

In a letter written to NRIs and AKKA, the Minister has appealed animal-lovers to pool in funds and donate the same to the Zoo. In his letter, the Minister has also mentioned that in his personal capacity and along with Food and Civil Supplies Minister K. Gopalaiah, he has donated Rs. 1.29 crore to the Zoo for immediate maintenance and has appealed for funds. Somashekar had collected a portion of the funds from donors of Yeshwanthpur Assembly Constituency.

This summer has been very bad for the Zoo. Due to the lockdown, funds have been hard to come by as there are no visitors. The Zoo gets the maximum number of visitors during the summer holidays and this year, the Zoo is shut. Even after lockdown when rules are relaxed, the Zoo cannot hope for immediate recoveries and has to wait till the Dasara season to see a spike in gate collection.

Zoo-keepers and maintenance workers have to feed the animals daily, clean their housing and make sure that the Zoo and its animals are in tip-top shape. Essential workers who tend to the animals daily are divided into teams, are encouraged to wear personal protective equipment like face masks, and are at a safe social distance from co-workers, say Zoo officials.

The Mysuru Zoo earns anywhere between Rs. 3 crore and Rs. 5 crore from March to May, that is summer season. Though there is substantial revenue in other months, the revenue raised during summer, Dasara, and winter is critical for the Zoo's survival. The Zoo collects an average annual revenue between Rs. 14 and Rs. 25 crore as indicated in the revenue chart from 2015 to 2019. Also, revenue is collected from people who enter Karanji Lake Nature Park.

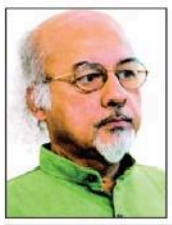
Though the revenue is substantial, a lot of money goes into maintaining the campus and the animals. The Zoo is a self-sustaining and a self-reliant institution that has not depended on Government grants since 2002. Instead, it maintains itself out of the money raised from gate ticket collection.

The 125-year-old Zoo houses 1,450 animals from 168 species representing more than 25 countries. Plus the Zoo has to maintain Chamundi Animal Conservation, Rescue and Rehabilitation Centre at Koorgalli on the outskirts of the city. As such, it has sent an appeal for donations.

City industrialist distributes grocery kits to transgenders

Vinutha, proprietor of Prem Industries at Metagalli along with her sister Anitha and daughter Vanisha distributed grocery kits to transgenders in city recently. A total of 250 grocery kits were distributed. Each kit contained 5 kg rice, 2 kg dal, 1 litre cooking oil, 1 kg rava, 1 kg wheat flour, 1 kg rice flour and other items.

Is blaming China a way out ?



Point of VIEW

T.J.S. George

Is there an untold story behind the Corona pandemic that is changing our world? When a crisis of this kind hits mankind, it is natural for all kinds of stories to circulate. Most of the stories now being heard about the origin and nature of the pandemic are alarming. The central point of the stories is that China may be sitting on secrets that not only give frightening dimensions to the crisis but also make its role and intentions suspicious.

One factor emphasised by most observers is that, while the damage done around the world has been massive, China seems to have not been hurt too badly. Across the globe more than 3 million people have been infected and more than 2 lakh lives lost. In the United States, the disease hit 1 million people and 60,000 were dead. But in China, from where Corona began its calamitous march, the number of infections has been below 83,000 and the death toll about 5,000. China appearing in a favourable light can be for one of two reasons. First, China is not revealing the real figures which may be much more devastating. Second, there might have been something the Chinese authorities knew and the rest of the world did not which helped them keep things under control. Australia has called for an international investigation into the pandemic and everything related to it. Australia implied that China was hiding facts and China accused Australia of political manipulation.

What facts could China hide? Perhaps Donald Trump knew something when he called it, again and again, the Wuhan virus. The general version is that the virus was the product of bad and irresponsible handling of meat and animal waste in the public market in Wuhan. But there was another version too — that the virus came from a laboratory that was trying to develop a biological weapon. The West had always harboured the theory that Communist China, intent on world domination, would not hesitate to use desperate measures to achieve its ends.

The head of the Wuhan Institute of Virology said that Corona virus did not originate there. But no one gave any conclusive answers as to where it originated. A generally accepted scientific view is that the virus evolved naturally. The Chinese Foreign Ministry completed the picture by saying that the virus might have emerged in the US and reached Wuhan through the World Military Games held there in October 2019 with the US also participating.

While denouncing Australia, China did say that investigations would be conducted into how and where the problem originated. It gave no details about how it proposed to conduct the inquiry which added to international scepticism about any Chinese inquiry.

This was natural because China's official conduct when the crisis began was unbecoming. Two doctors who sounded early warnings about the disease they confronted in their wards should have been heard and precautionary measures launched without loss of time. Instead, the doctors were condemned for acting without taking clearance from the party. One of the doctors himself caught the virus and died. This caused widespread anger among the people. But the authorities did not care.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) itself seemed overawed by China. Its early reactions were half-hearted, allowing China to take advantage of it. American politicians openly criticised WHO but China remained a beneficiary. The situation created by the crisis calls for an international inquiry by competent experts. This will not be possible without China's active participation. Since that participation is not likely to be forthcoming, the world will continue to be at the mercy of the pandemic instead of subjugating it for good.

China has been facing international criticism for its non-co-operation. By not releasing information about the spread of the virus in its early phase, said American author Shadi Hamid, China has "imperilled not only its own country and its own citizens but also the more than 100 nations now facing their own potentially devastating outbreaks." (Shadi Hamid is the author of books like "Islamic Exceptionalism" and "Temptations of Power.")

It may well be that China wants to dominate the world. But what is the point in dominating a world that is crippled by a pandemic that has gone out of control? We need to credit China with more common sense. We need to avoid the temptation to blame enemies for the dilemmas we face. By blaming China for virus-related problems, can we find an early way out of a crisis that has got us all completely foxed?

Resident Doctors seek hike in stipend

Wear black bands expressing their support to State-wide protest

Resident Doctors working at COVID Hospital sporting a black band around their arms.

Mysuru, May 5 (PM&BNR)- Resident Doctors (MD/ MS students), working at K.R., Cheluvamba and PKTB Hospitals, attached to Mysore Medical College and Research Institute (MMC&RI) and COVID Hospital, today were seen sporting a black band around their arms expressing support to the State-wide protest call given by Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors. There are around 500 PG students (Resident Doctors) in Mysuru.

MMC&RI RDA (Resident Doctors Association) Vice-President Dr. D.N. Puneeth, speaking to media, said: "We are being paid a monthly stipend of Rs.30,000 in first year, Rs.35,000 in second year and Rs.40,000 in third year. Last year, when the Government increased the fee for the Post-Graduate Medical Courses from Rs.20,000 to Rs.1 lakh, it had assured of increasing the stipend, but till date nothing has been done. Though Karnataka Association of Resident Doctors has been urging the Government to do the needful and we had even conducted a Twitter campaign with 1,00,000 tweets supporting us, there has been no response from Government. Hence, Government College PG students across Karnataka are wearing black band while on duty today to register the protest. We will be doing the same tomorrow also and if there is no response to this, we will intensify our strike."

He also pointed out that in India, Karnataka is the only State which is giving less stipend and charging more fees. In the National Capital, Resident Doctors are getting stipend anywhere between Rs.90,000 and Rs.1 lakh and fees is around Rs.20,000 or so, he added.

"Every week, around 18 PG students are deployed to work in shifts at COVID Hospital in Mysuru. They are then quarantined for 14 days away from their families. Despite all these risks, the Government is not responding to the woes of Corona Warriors," he regretted.

MMC&RI RDA President Dr. Ronak Hameed and Vice-President Dr. S. Sinchana were present during media briefing.

Resident Doctors on duty at K.R. Hospital.

CESC takes up overhead power lines conversion works

Mysuru, May 5- Chamundeshwari Electricity Supply Corporation (CESC) Limited has taken up the conversion of overhead power lines into underground power cables and the work is in progress across the city.

The conversion works are taken up to prevent any damages caused to the power lines due to trees falling on overhead power lines during rains and gusty winds and also to minimise the loss to CESC.

Replacement of damaged poles, transformers

Following heavy rains in and around the city on Sunday night, about 200 electric poles and 13 transformers have been damaged resulting in power disruption at many places. The power supply to the affected places would be restored soon and the works to replace the damaged electric poles and transformers would also be taken up, according to a press release from CESC Superintending Engineer K.M. Munigopalaraju.

Barring Nanjangud, property registrations resume in district

Staff at work at the Sub-Registrar Office in Mini Vidhana Soudha this morning.

Mysuru, May 5 (RK&DM)- Property registrations in the district which was stopped at the Sub-Registrar Offices due to the nationwide COVID-19 lockdown, has resumed from yesterday (May 4) across the district, except for Nanjangud, which has been declared as Novel Coronavirus hotspot.

The registration of properties, marriages and such other related works resumed at all the five Sub-Registrar Offices in the city --- Mysuru East (Dr. Rajkumar road), Mysuru West (near Vijayanagar Water Tank), Mysuru North (Mini Vidhana Soudha), Mysuru South (Ramakrishnanagar) and MUDA Office ---- and at eight other offices in the district --- T. Narasipur, Bannur, K.R.Nagar, Mirle, Periyapatna, Bettadapura, Hunsur and H.D.Kote. However, the Sub-Registrar office at Nanjangud is yet to re-open as the taluk has been declared a COVID-19 hotspot. All the offices will function from 9 am to 6.30 pm on all working days.

Entry pass mandatory

Due to the lockdown, it is mandatory for property sellers or buyers to obtain entry pass in advance by sending their personal details such as Name, Residential address, Mobile number and Aadhaar card Number, via e-mail to their respective Sub-Registrar Office. Also those who have registered must get their registrations done only on the assigned date.

It is mandatory for the buyers, sellers and the signing witnesses, to wear face-masks while entering the office. Besides, everyone entering the office will have to undergo thermal screening and those found having COVID-19 symptoms will be denied entry. Those living in Containment Zones too are barred from entry to the office.

It is mandatory to ensure social distancing at the offices and only those persons who find their names in the entry pass will be allowed inside. The documents needed for registration will be received only if K-2 challan is successfully accepted by the software.

As far as EC (Encumbrance Certificate) and CC is concerned, only online applications are accepted.

On the first day of resumption on Monday, all the five offices in the city witnessed only a few property registrations.

Govt. employees return to work as lockdown norms relaxed

Employees wear mask and maintain social distance while on duty at Railway Office in Mysuru this morning.

Mysuru, May 5 - All State Government employees resumed work as lockdown norms were relaxed from yesterday. Earlier, following the imposition of lockdown, the Government had identified 10 Departments as essential to check the spread of Coronavirus and had exempted employees of all the other Departments from work.

The following Departments were identified as essential services by the administration: Health & Family Welfare, Medical Education, Home, Revenue, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Urban Development, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Energy, Transport, Information & Public Relations.

While the administration has instructed all employees to return to work, employees who are aged 55 and above have been exempted till the complete relaxation of lockdown and 33 percent of C and D group employees have been permitted to work.

University of Mysore, Karnataka State Open University, Department of Information and Publicity, Forest Department, PU Board, Backward Classes Welfare Department and others have resumed work since yesterday. But very few people were seen seeking services in these offices.

Liquor costs more from today in Karnataka

- Yesterday's total sale nets Rs. 45 crore to State Exchequer
- In Mysuru, 1,51,110 litres of IML, 40,494 litres of beer sold in a single day

Bengaluru, Mysuru, May 5 (MTY&BCT)- From today (May 5), consumers will have to shell out more for liquor. Excise Department officials said that according to the budgetary proposal, the price of Indian-Made Liquor (IML) will be increased by 6 percent from Tuesday.

"The lockdown has been in place for more than a month. Yesterday, shop owners sold the old stock. From today, they will get a fresh supply of liquor with a revised price tag. The State Budget for the current financial year had proposed a 6 percent increase in the price of IML. The price of beer will remain unchanged," an official said.

State budget for fiscal 2020-21 proposed to increase additional excise duty (AED) by 6 percent per bulk litre or 9 litres of the various brands. "I propose to increase the rates of AED by 6 percent per bulk litre of IML across 18 slabs," Yediyurappa had said while presenting the State Budget for the ensuing fiscal in the Assembly. The rates were not enforced so far but has been implemented from today.

The 6 percent increase in the AED will cost the cheapest liquor brand by Rs. 9 more per carton box of 12 bottles and the costliest brands by Rs. 202 per carton box. The Excise Commissioner, in a press release, said that yesterday, 3.9 lakh litres of beer and 8.5 lakh litres of IML were sold, generating Rs. 45 crore in revenue. In Mysuru, 1,51,110 litres of IML were sold yesterday and 40,494 litres of beer.

Obituary

Keethianda Chengappa

Mysuru, May 5- Keethianda Chengappa (96), a Pattedar and a resident of Alanahalli, passed away in the wee hours of today.

He leaves behind his son advocate Pradyumna, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends. His wife Keethianda C. Saraswathi (Ballachanda) had predeceased him last month (Apr. 28).

Last rites were performed at the foot of Chamundi Hill this afternoon.

Sannamma

Sannamma (80), wife of late Mallegowda and a resident of New Kantharaja Urs Road in Kuvempunagar, passed away last night.

She leaves behind two sons, two daughters and a host of relatives and friends.

Last rites were performed this afternoon at K.G. Koppal burial ground

Puttabhagyamma

Puttabhagyamma (63), wife of M.N. Mahadevu, KPCC Backward Classes Vice-President, President of Beereshwara Ramamandira Trust and a resident of N.R. Mohalla, passed away on May 1 in city.

She leaves behind her husband, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed at N.R. Mohalla burial ground.

Malegowda

Nanjangud: Malegowda (62), senior Congress leader, former Karnataka Housing Board member and a resident of Thandavapura in Nanjangud, passed away yesterday following a heart attack. He leaves behind his wife Revamma, former Taluk Panchayat Vice-President, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and friends. Last rites were performed yesterday evening.

DC, SP inspect check-post

(Continued from page 1)

Virus scare in K.R. Nagar and H.D. Kote

Interacting with reporters in K.R. Nagar, the DC revealed that there was Coronavirus scare in K.R. Nagar and H.D. Kote at a time when COVID-19 positive cases have come down from 90 to 8 in Mysuru with 82 patients getting cured.

A 52-year-old truck driver who returned from Chennai tested positive for SARS-CoV-2 (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome-related Coronavirus) in Wayanad in Kerala on Saturday. He hails from Kurukkan Moola near Manandavadi. He had gone to a market at Koyambedu in Chennai on Apr. 18 and had returned to Wayanad on Apr. 26. He was later tested positive.

"This truck driver had come to Saalekoppa village near Chunchanakatte to transport cultivated ginger and he had come in contact with six persons. He later proceeded towards H.D. Kote again to buy ginger and came into contact with 10 other persons. The driver later went to Koyambedu Market at Chennai in Tamil Nadu, the epicentre of virus in that State where he would have contacted the virus," the DC said.

Officials swing into action

As soon as the Mysuru District Administration got an alert from Wayanad authorities regarding the truck driver's contact history, the health officials swung into action and quarantined the 6 persons in K.R. Nagar and 10 persons in H.D. Kote.

"All those in his primary contact list in K.R. Nagar and H.D. Kote have tested negative. It is clear for us that the truck driver was not infected on his arrival in K.R. Nagar. However the testing of only one person in his contact in K.R. Nagar remains to be conducted and the process is underway and there is nothing to panic," the DC added.

A team of officials led by Circle Inspector P.K. Raju had rushed to the villages in the wee hours and had quarantined the suspects and had later taken them for tests. The team of officials included PSI Chetan, Taluk Health Officer Dr. Mahendrappa, Health Inspector K.V. Ramesh and Junior Assistant Praveen. There was considerable anxiety in K.R. Nagar over villagers being taken for tests in ambulances.

Minister directs officials to gear up for SSLC exams

Bengaluru, May 5- Primary and Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar on Monday instructed all district-level officers to start preparations for the conduct of SSLC exams (2019-20). The exams, earlier scheduled from Mar. 27, were postponed due to the lockdown.

The Minister held a video-conference with all the DDPIs of the State yesterday, during which he instructed them to ensure all necessary safety measures at the examination centres keeping the post-lockdown situation and the COVID pandemic in mind.

Directing the officials to keep sanitisers, masks and thermal scanners ready at all exam centres, he said that body temperature check for students attending the exam would be mandatory.

Pointing out that the exam centres located in Containment Zones will be shifted to safe zones, Suresh Kumar said that the number of students in one hall will be limited to 24 in order to maintain social distancing.

Asking the Department Commissioner to submit a plan on conducting the exam for students in their hometowns if they have already reached there due to the lockdown, the Minister clarified that the time-table will be announced only after officials announce that all necessary safety and precautionary measures are in place at the exam centres.

COVID - 19 UPDATE

MYSURU

Persons observed till date	:	4,762
Persons who have completed 14 days' isolation	:	4,728
Persons isolated in home for 14 days	:	26
Persons isolated in hospital for active cases	:	8
Total samples tested	:	4,678
Samples found negative	:	4,588
Samples found positive (cumulative)	:	90
Persons cured / discharged	:	82
Death toll so far in Mysuru	:	0

MANDYA

Total positive cases in Mandya	:	28
Persons cured / discharged	:	7
Death toll so far in Mandya	:	0

KARNATAKA & INDIA

Total positive cases in Karnataka	:	659
Persons cured / discharged	:	324
Death toll so far in Karnataka	:	28
Total active cases in India	:	32,138
Persons cured / discharged	:	12,726
Death toll so far in India	:	1,568

(Note: Figures till 5 pm)

Youth murdered in drunken brawl

(Continued from page 1)

In a fit of rage, Madhu, who was carrying a knife on him, stabbed Satish. After the incident, Kiran and Madhu fled the spot.

Police said that though Satish was bleeding profusely and was pleading for help, Madhu and Kiran did not help him. A passer-by who noticed Satish writhing in pain informed Udayagiri Police. Inspector Poonacha and team rushed to the spot and conducted a mahazar. Satish died at the crime scene due to excessive bleeding, Police added.

Some of the residents and passers-by informed the Police that Satish, Madhu and Kiran were spotted buying liquor yesterday morning and they were together till the crime happened. Police have beefed up security as Kyathamaranahalli falls under the sensitive zone. A manhunt has been launched to nab the culprits.

BJP Backward Classes Morcha lends helping hand to gas cylinder distributors

On behalf of BJP Backward Classes Morcha, BJP City President Srivatsa distributed grocery kits to gas distributors at Parvathi Gas Agency near Bharati Convention Hall in Vidyaranyapuram yesterday (May 4). Similarly, kits were distributed to Kanakagiri, Gundurao Nagar, Ashokapuram, Bandikeri, Thonachikopal, Jayanagar and other area gas distributors yesterday. Morcha President Jogi Manju, former President Shivakumar, General Secretary Somasundar, Pradeep Kumar, Ramesh Kurubarahalli, Jayashankar, Sharath, Raju, Prasad and others were present.

COVID-19 District Emergency Control Room

The Mysuru District Emergency Control Room for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) is functional 24x7 and has a team of operators and medical professionals who are working in shifts. All related queries will be handled professionally and necessary guidance will be provided to all callers, according to Mysuru DC.

Mysuru Helpline numbers
1077 or 0821-2423800
Karnataka Helpline number: 104
Central Helpline number:
011-23978046
Email: ncov2019@gmail.com

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